



KENTUCKY BOARD OF EDUCATION

BOARD NOTES

Volume 12, No. 6 Report of the December 8-9, 2004, Regular Meeting

STATE BOARD CONTINUES REVIEW OF WRITING ASSESSMENT IMPROVEMENTS

At its December 8-9, 2004, meeting, the Kentucky Board of Education reviewed recommendations from Kentucky Department of Education staff on potential improvements to the writing assessment that would begin in 2007. These recommendations have come forth as part of a year-long study of the writing assessment by the Board. The major changes under consideration include:

- The portfolio would be moved from grade 12 to grade 11 to allow its use for postsecondary purposes (i.e., college placement, IGP connection, career planning); however, this would require consideration of whether to move other content areas currently assessed at grade 11 elsewhere to ensure students and teachers are not overloaded.
- The writing assessment would be spread across more grades by: moving the 12th grade portfolio to grade 11; having 5th and 8th graders take the on-demand writing tests; and giving 12th graders an assessment that requires responding to literary passages.
- The weight of on-demand writing and the portfolio would become equal.
- Tenth graders would take a multiple choice grammar/writing conventions test.
- Regional scoring sites would be created within Kentucky to help ensure portfolio scoring is more consistent.

- The number of pieces required for the portfolio would be reduced and an emphasis on analytical/technical writing would be added at the high school level.
- A statewide training program on writing would be developed and implemented.
- The Code of Ethics would be enhanced to target inappropriate practices during the portfolio process, such as an excessive number of revisions to pieces.
- Scoring of portfolios would be done using a modified analytical scoring method instead of the present holistic method.
- Performance levels would be expanded to match those of other content areas: Novice Non-Performance, Novice, High Novice, Low Apprentice, Apprentice, High Apprentice, Proficient and Distinguished.

The Board also met with the National Technical Advisory Panel on Assessment and Accountability (NTAPAA), a group of nationally respected testing experts, to get their advice on the proposed changes to the writing assessment. Using the advice gained from the conversation with NTAPAA, the Board will move toward finalizing the improvements to the writing assessment at its January 5 and February 2-3, 2005, meetings.

For more information on improving the writing assessment for 2007 and beyond, contact Starr Lewis at (502) 564-9850 or via email at slewis@kde.state.ky.us or Nancy LaCount at (502) 564-7056 or via email at nlacount@kde.state.ky.us.

BOARD HEARS STATUS REPORT ON REVIEWING, UPDATING AND ORGANIZING THE CONTENT AND STUDENT PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

As the Kentucky Department of Education staff move includes toward the issuance of a Request for Proposals (RFP) that specifies the configuration of the CATS test 2007 and beyond, work that is vital to the content of the RFP includes reviewing, updating and organizing of the content and student performance standards. Several conversations on this matter have previously taken place with the Board and the December presentation was designed to let members know where staff are in this process.

Staff made it clear that the intent is to organize the standards in such a way that the essential knowledge and skills to be learned are clear and apparent. National content experts are working directly with the Department to ensure clarity and alignment as well as an easy-to-use format. Commissioner Wilhoit indicated more specific descriptors and action verbs will be evident.

The Board directed staff to keep the following in mind as they update standards:

- Ensure review by a wide variety of audiences prior to bringing the updated standards back to the Board members for final approval in April;

- Keep simplicity and clarity at the forefront as the document is created;
- Remember that alignment is of immense importance; and,
- Strike a balance between revision, reviewing and/or updating.

For more information on updating the content and performance standards, contact Starr Lewis at (502) 564-9850 or via email at slewis@kde.state.ky.us or Michael Miller at (502) 564-2106 or via email at mjmillier@kde.state.ky.us.

BOARD DELAYS IMPLEMENTATION OF NEW ATTENDANCE CALCULATION BY ONE YEAR

Kentucky Department of Education staff reminded the Board that 702 KAR 7:125 (8)(2) requires that beginning July 1, 2005, attendance for state funding purposes will be calculated based on actual percentage of the day. This provision was adopted in February 2003, as part of revisions to the attendance regulation that included wide review by superintendents and directors of pupil personnel.

Software Technology Incorporated (STI) is developing the program for the collection of this data and has promised a product delivery date prior to the 2005-2006 school year. However, staff indicated to the Board that this leaves little time for local staff training and assurance of the program operating correctly in districts using alternative calendars. Additionally, the Board was apprised that the software component enabling the use of unique student identifiers is scheduled to roll out during the third quarter of this school year. Thus, staff felt this roll out plus implementation of the attendance program would place too much of a burden on districts to execute two significant changes in the same calendar year.

Due to these concerns and others, the Kentucky Directors of Pupil Personnel requested that the Board delay full implementation of calculating attendance based on actual percentage of the day to the 2006-07 school year. The Board approved the delay since it would allow the piloting of the attendance software package in several districts in 2005-06 and give the Department and STI time to work out potential problems with the process before it goes live.

For more information on the delay of calculating attendance based on actual percentage of the day, contact Kyna Koch at (502) 564-3930 or via email at kkoch@kde.state.ky.us.

STATE BOARD APPROVES LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

An additional item on prevailing wage was added to the Board's 2005 legislative agenda at its December meeting. The Board approved drafting legislation that would suspend the prevailing wage requirement for school construction for two to five years to study the impact.

Previously, at the August and October meetings, the state board discussed and approved items for its 2005 legislative agenda as follows:

- Clarify the language on principal selection to clearly indicate that the superintendent recommends candidates for the position and the council selects from among those recommended.
- Add a weight in the SEEK calculation for the number of students who have limited English proficiency.
- Provide a state adjustment to the SEEK calculation for districts whose local tax effort in the formula is greater than the local revenue that can be generated by the district.
- Allow all local boards to levy a rate that yields up to a 4% increase in property tax revenue.
- Allow local boards to levy without recall an additional nickel for facilities above the current nickel authorized by the Facilities Support Program of Kentucky (FSPK).
- Repeal the sunset provision of KRS 156.621 to ensure any eligible district is able to levy the growth nickel if needed for facilities due to unusual growth in student population.
- Assure that each student is ready to progress at key transition points or have interventions planned to address problems.
- Move the date of notification of re-employment of certified (KRS 161.750) and classified KRS (161.011) staff from April 30 to May 15.
- Move the date of notification of reduction of duties to certified staff (KRS 161.760) from 90 days before school starts to “90 days before school starts, but no later than May 15.”
- Move the date of salary notification to certified staff from 45 days before school starts (KRS 161.760) to “45 days before school starts, but no later than June 15.”
- Establish a procedure for local districts to adopt wellness policies.
- Clarify that the Board of Claims does not have jurisdiction to consider cases against the Kentucky Board of Education and the Department of Education for allegations arising out of the actions of an employee of a local board of education.
- Allow two local boards to enter into an agreement for more than one year and to clarify that the best interests of all affected students are to be considered, not just the individual students involved in the contract.

- Require a local district to report instructional leaders who fail to complete their required 42 hours to the department, as opposed to reporting everyone completing it.
- Make clear the employment of teachers at KSB/KSD is comparable to local school districts, not KRS Chapter 18A.
- Provide school accountability consequences for staff at KSB/KSD.

For more information on the Board's legislative agenda, contact Bonnie Brinly at (502) 564-4474 or via email at bbrinly@kde.state.ky.us.

BOARD APPROVES FACILITIES PLANS FOR KSB AND KSD

Since January 2004, Facilities Planning Committees at both the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf have been meeting on a regular basis to study the utilization of the facilities on each campus. The committees have reviewed the facilities at their respective schools to determine how best to support the educational programs outlined in the five-year implementation plan adopted by the state board in August 2004 in order to fully support the needs of students with sensory losses statewide. Each committee brought forward a facilities plan that was widely reviewed with stakeholders and accepted by the committees. Additionally, a public hearing was held on each plan. The Board approved both plans with the caveat that the KSB plan will go back to its committee for review of the public hearing comments and if needed, the Board will consider changes resulting from this review.

Since the facilities at both schools are state property and under the jurisdiction of the Finance and Administration Cabinet, Department staff will be presenting the recommendations from these plans to the appropriate state officials for consideration as decisions are made through the Capital Construction process.

For more information on the facilities plans from KSB and KSD, contact Johnnie Grissom at (502) 564-4970 or via email at jgrissom@kde.state.ky.us.

OTHER ITEMS APPROVED BY THE BOARD AT ITS DECEMBER 8-9, 2004, MEETING WERE:

- Minutes from the October 6-7 and November 3, 2004, regular meetings
- Hearing Officer's Report
- Criteria for dissemination of Commonwealth School Improvement Funds
- Kentucky School for the Blind Advisory Board Appointment
- 2004-2005 Local District Tax Rates Levied
- 2004-2005 Local District Working Budgets
- District Facility Plans for: Boyd, Lyon, McLean and Pike Counties
- Local district facility plan amendments for: Fleming, Grant, Hart, Mercer, Rockcastle and Trimble Counties

- Removal of Emergency Declaration designation from Covington Independent
- Granting a waiver of 702 KAR 5:080 as requested by the Montgomery County School District
- 704 KAR 7:120, Home/Hospital (Final)
- Attendance of David Webb, David Rhodes, Dorie Combs, Hilma Prather, David Tachau and Bonnie Lash Freeman to out-of-state meetings
- Resolution honoring Scott Trimble

ITEMS REVIEWED BY THE BOARD AT ITS DECEMBER 8-9, 2004, MEETING WITH NO ACTION TAKEN WERE:

- KDE Employment Report
- Update on the CATS Online High School Prototype
- Update on academic achievement and progress at the Kentucky School for the Blind and Kentucky School for the Deaf
- 702 KAR 3:030, Insurance Requirements
- 702 KAR 5:110, Reimbursement for Vocational Pupil Transportation
- Status of the School Breakfast Program in Kentucky
- 704 KAR 3:035, Annual Professional Development Plan
- Access and Quality in Dual Credit Programs
- Building a Strong Foundation for School Success: Kentucky's Early Childhood Continuous Assessment Guide, Quality Self-Study Guide and Parent Guides
- Format for Kentucky Board of Education meetings

KBE MEETING DATES 2005

<u>2005</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 5, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
February 2-3, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 6-7, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
May 17-18, 2005	KBE retreat and preliminary budget discussion	Kentucky Dam Village State Park
June 8-9, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 3-4, 2005	Regular meeting and commissioner's evaluation	Frankfort
September 14, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 5-6, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
November 2, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 7-8, 2005	Regular meeting	Frankfort

KBE MEETING DATES 2006

<u>2006</u>	<u>Type of Meeting</u>	<u>Location</u>
January 4, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
February 1-2, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
March 8, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
April 5-6, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
May 10-11, 2006	KBE retreat and strategic plan discussion	*TBD
June 7-8, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
July 5, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
August 2-3, 2006	Regular meeting and commissioner's evaluation	Frankfort
September 6, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
October 4-5, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
November 1, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort
December 6-7, 2006	Regular meeting	Frankfort

*TBD – To be determined

For more information on the meeting dates, contact Mary Ann Miller at 502-564-3141 or via email at mmiller@kde.state.ky.us or Susan Palmer at 502-564-3141 or via email at spalmer@kde.state.ky.us.

The actions described above were taken in open session of the Kentucky Board of Education at the December 8-9, 2004, regular meeting conducted in the State Board Room, Capital Plaza Tower, 1st Floor, Frankfort, Kentucky. This information is provided in summary form, and an official record of the meeting is available on tape in the permanent records of the Kentucky Board of Education, First Floor, Capital Plaza Tower, Frankfort, Kentucky 40601. These records are open for inspection Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

For additional information about the Kentucky Board of Education meetings, agendas, minutes or special accommodations needed for attending meetings, contact Mary Ann Miller, Policy Coordinator at (502) 564-3141.

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